

PLAYBOY INTERVIEW:

JACK ANDERSON

a candid conversation with the muckraking syndicated columnist

There is no commonly accepted view of Jack Anderson. Easily the best-known—indeed, most notorious—newspaperman in America, Anderson is seen by his supporters as a tough cop on a tough beat, shining a searching spotlight into all the shady nooks and crannies of official Washington. His enemies see him as a journalistic mugger lurking in the shadows, waiting to rob all passers-by, guilty or otherwise, of their virtuous public images. For Anderson, there is no venality too small, no corruption too mind-boggling to rail against. His columns about generals shoplifting trinkets from Army PXs and mayors biting call-girls on the knee are written in the same high dudgeon as his headline-making revelations of political scandals on Capitol Hill and in the White House.

Even by Anderson's splashy standards for attention getting, 1972 has been a spectacular year. Never far from the center of one controversy or another, he won his first Pulitzer Prize for releasing, in January, highly classified secret documents revealing that the Nixon Administration had been less than candid with the public about its pro-Pakistan bias in the India-Pakistan war. Next, he made the cover of Time after his series of columns based on the now-famous Dita Beard memo charging that the International

Telephone & Telegraph Corporation had pledged \$400,000 toward the costs of the Republican Convention in return for a favorable settlement of an immensely important antitrust suit against I.T.T. Anderson also claimed that then-Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst had lied in saying that he had taken no part in the I.T.T. settlement. Kleindienst, whose nomination as Attorney General was then before the Senate, requested hearings to remove the "cloud" over his head; and although the Senate finally confirmed him, 64-19, the cloud remains in place not only over him but also over the Administration and I.T.T.

After his two extraordinary scoops, it was Anderson's turn to be publicly embarrassed. Shortly after Senator Thomas Eagleton, George McGovern's original running mate, announced that he had undergone psychiatric treatment on three occasions during the Sixties, Anderson claimed that Eagleton had also been ticketed several times in his home state of Missouri for drunken and reckless driving. It was a story that Anderson couldn't prove, and he was forced to apologize and finally retract amid the most serious barrage of attacks he had ever faced on his own credibility.

Though Anderson is a veteran in the investigative reporter's nether world of

charge and countercharge, personal notoriety is a relatively new development in his career. For two decades, he labored anonymously as the chief reporter for Drew Pearson and was responsible for many of Pearson's most sensational stories, including the series on Senator Thomas Dodd's misuse of campaign funds that led to Dodd's censure by the Senate. When Pearson died in 1969, Anderson took over his syndicated "The Washington Merry-go-round" column. Many editors predicted that the loss of Pearson's marquee value would lead to a decline in the column's popularity, but Anderson worked at becoming a celebrity himself and improved on Pearson's shaky reputation for accuracy and fairness by checking out stories more thoroughly than Pearson had, and by eschewing personal causes. Unlike Pearson, Anderson didn't protect his friends; he simply went after everybody—conservatives, liberals, Democrats and Republicans alike. The formula worked and the number of subscribing newspapers has risen from about 600 at the time of Pearson's death to 750 today in the U.S. and abroad. That makes Anderson the most widely read political columnist in the world. To find out why he does what he does, and how he does it,



"Nixon is a man without any political convictions at all. That's why he can be a conservative anti-Communist one day and a liberal flying to Peking the next. God knows what he'll be next year."

"I think the Eagleton story damaged me very much. I think a lot of people will now wonder whether I'm telling the truth. The only power I have is my name, and I'm human, and fallible."

"The facts in the I.T.T. case were ignored. An objective American jury would have convicted Richard Kleindienst. I would have called John Mitchell for perjury at the same time."

continued

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

New Drug Wave Points Westward

By Jack Anderson

President Nixon's herculean effort to stop drug smuggling has at last slowed the flow of heroin from Turkey and Southeast Asia. But a new tidal wave is rising in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

Even our mideastern ally, Iran, has started to grow its own opium under government control, but the government may not be able to stop illegal shipments from being diverted to America.

This is the warning of the Central Intelligence Agency, which has also reported ominously: "Rumors persist that some members of the royal family and parliament are narcotics users. Swiss authorities recently charged an Iranian Prince, who accompanied the Shah to Switzerland, with having transferred pure opium."

Secret documents from the CIA and other intelligence agencies describe dangerous opium buildups in South Asia. This could be a shot in the arm for the Mafia, whose supplies in Turkey and the Thailand-Laos-Vietnam area are slowly beginning to dry up.

The new smuggling menace was raised by the CIA's Directorate of Intelligence in memos dated June 26 and June 9.

"Whether or not substantial quantities of South Asian opium are diverted to the U.S. and Western Europe will depend, in the final analysis, on

the Western traffickers," reports the CIA.

"Tribal producers in Afghanistan and Pakistan undoubtedly would be willing to sell to Western traffickers . . . The potential for substantial diversions of opium westward exist . . .

"Taxities in South Asia would offer a distinct advantage to international traffickers if they should decide to tap the South Asian opium market."

Opium Gum

In Afghanistan production is up. Starving peasants, "lacking adequate food supplies because of recent droughts, have resorted to chewing opium gum to ease hunger pains."

In Pakistan, too, production "may have risen sharply since 1969," says the CIA. In both countries "penalties for narcotics violations are minimal."

The intelligence documents also suggest that the Mafia would have no trouble corrupting officials in both countries.

In Afghanistan, the documents report, "official corruption including high-level protection of narcotics dealers is . . . a problem" and "smuggling is a way of life."

In Pakistan, "official corruption is reported to be a serious problem" among the Land Customs, Sea Customs, provincial police and para-military forces.

Worse, "the existing hashish

network in Afghanistan and Pakistan could be used to send substantial quantities of opium westward," warn the intelligence documents. Afghans already have "professional and sophisticated" means of getting hashish by air to Tehran, Beirut and Frankfurt and by sea to Karachi. Some has reached the U.S.

As for India, the documents say it now produces about three-quarters of the world's legal opium for medical purposes. The widely held view that India is effectively controlling its opium production is a "myth," the documents allege.

Iran still doesn't produce enough legal opium for the country's registered addicts, who receive the drug under a national program. But the opium harvest is increasing.

Meanwhile, allege the documents, "the estimated 160-300 tons currently being smuggled into Iran, that could become available, exceeds the total opium equivalent needed to supply the U.S. market."

Diplomatic Grievances

Diplomats at the State Department have been complaining about undiplomatic treatment from their bosses. This week the squabble among the striped pants set will boil over into a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

Chairman Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) is finally yielding to Senate pressure and holding

hearings on a bill to give State Department workers an independent grievance board.

Two present and one former foreign service officers are breaking the gentleman's code of silence and spilling their woes.

One witness is John Hemenway, a conservative diplomat who claims he was fired because he argued with his bosses over U.S. policies in Berlin.

A present foreign service officer, John Harter, who fought and won an appeal against shabby treatment from the department, has told his story in a letter to Hays. Even State's grievance board upheld Harter, urging that he be promoted, given a new job and reimbursed for his lawyers' fees.

The State Department, however, has largely ignored the recommendations which are now eight months old.

While the Hays hearings have made the State Department anxious over what further horror stories may surface, some of their fears are unwarranted. Hays has confided that he does not expect a bill out of his committee until the next session.

This means that the Senate would have to go through the entire process of passing their version of the measure again before any grievance board is set up outside the department's own jurisdiction.